

THE RECOVERY ACT: WEST VIRGINIA CLOSE UP

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) was created in 1976 to assist low-income families who lacked resources to invest in energy efficiency. Operated in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Native American tribes, and U.S. Territories, Weatherization funds are used to accomplish the mission of WAP, *“To reduce energy costs for low-income families, particularly for the elderly, people with disabilities, and children, by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety.”*

Over 900 local agencies apply energy-efficiency measures to low-income homes using the most advanced technologies and testing protocols available in the housing industry. The resulting energy savings help decrease energy costs for the families and our country’s dependence on foreign oil.

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), signed by President Obama on February 17, 2009, WAP received \$5 billion of funding to expand the current Program and achieve the purposes set forth in the Act. As a result, here is how Weatherization *Works* for West Virginia and America!

What does the Recovery Act mean to West Virginia?

The goal of the Recovery Act is to stimulate the state and local economies quickly. West Virginia will receive over \$1.5 billion to invest in education, health care, public safety and energy projects and will save or create numerous jobs, while also helping to protect essential state services that West Virginians rely upon every day.

The **West Virginia Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity (GOEO)** directly benefits from the Recovery Act. West Virginia’s Weatherization Assistance Program budget is over \$37 million. These additional funds will make a substantial impact for the state and local program providers along with the energy consumption and bills for many more low-income citizens. Since April 2009, West Virginia has:

- created 130 jobs.¹
- purchased 50 vehicles.¹
- purchased 40 insulation blowing machines.¹
- spent over \$150,000 on tools and equipment.¹

WEST VIRGINIA WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

	State Allocation	Homes Weatherized
DOE Weatherization Recovery Act Funding ²	\$37.6 million	3,565**
Program Year 2009	\$4.8 million	680*
Program Year 2008	\$3.2 million	1,389
Program Year 2007	\$2.9 million	1,003

WEATHERIZATION FACTS

Average annual energy cost savings per household ³	\$350
Average space heating savings	32%
Energy benefits returned for every \$1 invested ³	\$1.67

¹ West Virginia Weatherization Assistance Program.

² The Recovery Act Funding covers three years, from April 2009 through March 2012.

³ ORNL/CON-493, ORNL/CON-484, EIA Annual Energy Outlook for 2009, EIA Short Term Energy Outlook (Feb. 2008)

* Projected Number of Homes Weatherized.

** Projected Number of Homes Weatherized. This projection is based on an increased allowable expenditure per home than in previous years.

What's Next for West Virginia

Since the inception of the program, over 70,000 homes in West Virginia have been weatherized to date. With the increase in program funding, GOEO is setting its sites on expanding their program's reach across the state through job training and outreach.

Between April and June 2009, West Virginia received over 1,000 new applications for assistance. These new applications are on top of the existing homes awaiting work. To try and meet the current and new demand, GOEO plans to work with its 13 established weatherization agencies along with training new workers to provide assistance to these families.

Training & Green Jobs

A key element to meet the needs of the GOEO's weatherization program is to expand the state's green job training and career development.

In October 2009, Governor Joe Manchin III announced a Memorandum of Understanding between GOEO and the West Virginia Community & Technical College System to develop a degree and career program that will be offered at each of the 10 community colleges.

Developed with Recovery Act funding, this adult education project will begin in early 2010 with basic Weatherization Installer/Technician Fundamentals and follow with a series of classes and coursework to provide a two-year associates degree in weatherization building science. In addition, the program will be open

to the construction industry and private companies to increase their weatherization proficiency and green construction skills.

Weatherization Works

Weatherization provides long term solutions to energy and non-energy issues for low-income households. Challenges such as unsafe combustion systems or mold and moisture problems are addressed during the weatherization process when necessary. Addressing both energy and non-energy issues not only improves the efficiency of the home, but the overall quality of life for the residents.

For every \$1 invested in the program, Weatherization currently returns \$2.73 to the household and society:

- \$1.67 in reduced energy bills
- \$1.06 in non-energy benefits
 - increased local employment
 - improved housing quality
 - better health and safety

Weatherization also reduces national energy consumption and curbs the demand for imported oil.

Annually, Weatherization decreases the national consumption by the equivalent of 18 million barrels of oil.

Weatherization truly works for West Virginia and America!



A Weatherization crew member blows insulation into the belly of a mobile home.

For more information about the Weatherization Assistance Program, visit:



www.wvstate.wv.us/ceo/weatherization.htm
www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization
www.waptac.org

EERE Information Center
1-877-EERE-INF (1-877-337-3463)
www.eere.energy.gov/informationcenter

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